

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claims 1-7 (canceled)

<sup>1</sup>  
Claim ~~8~~ (currently amended): A method of screening for a substance as ~~claimed in claim~~  
~~7~~ that inhibits or induces interaction between a transcription coupling factor and a Smad  
molecule comprising the following steps:

a. preparing a culture system consisting of introducing a transcription  
coupling factor expression vector and a Smad molecule expression vector  
into cultured cells and culturing said cells;

b. adding a substance to be tested to said culture system; and

c. measuring inhibition activity or induction activity of said substance by  
detecting the binding of said transcription coupling factor to said Smad molecule,  
wherein said transcription coupling factor is CBP and/or p300.

Claims 9-13 (canceled)

<sup>2</sup>  
Claim ~~14~~ (currently amended): A method of screening for a substance as claimed in claim  
~~7~~<sup>1</sup>, wherein said Smad molecule is Smad3.

Claim 15 (canceled)

Claim <sup>3</sup>~~16~~ (currently amended) A method of screening for a substance ~~as claimed in claim~~  
~~15~~ that inhibits or induces interaction between a transcription coupling factor and a Smad  
molecule comprising: physically contacting said transcription coupling factor with said  
Smad molecule in the presence or absence of a substance to be tested; detecting the  
binding of said transcription coupling factor to said Smad molecule; and measuring  
inhibition activity or induction activity of said substance, wherein said transcription  
coupling factor is CBP and/or p300.

Claim <sup>4</sup>~~17~~ (currently amended) A method of screening for a substance as claimed in claim  
<sup>3</sup>~~15~~ ~~16~~, wherein said Smad molecule is Smad3.